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## Children and Family Services Division Supportive and Therapeutic Options Program (STOP)

### **Background**

- Implemented January 31, 1999
- Forty-nine ( 49) participating counties
- Target population - foster care children and/ or probation children at risk of out-of- home placement, not Medi-Cal eligible or for other reasons unable to access needed services under existing funding arrangements.

### **Program Goals**

- Prevent children from entering or re-entering foster care placement by providing family-centered, community-based supportive and therapeutic services to families.
- Promote successful transitions home through the development of aftercare alternatives that provide continuity in service delivery.
- Maximize funding resources for service delivery through collaborative partnerships among local public and private agencies such as mental health, probation, group homes and other service providers.

### **Funding**

- \$9,910,755. State General Fund Allocation Fiscal Allocation has remained the same since 1999.
- 10 percent budget reduction imposed - (\$8,718,769) in Fiscal Year 2009/2010
- The loss and/or reduction of funding could result in an increased placements and longer lengths of stay in foster care.

### **Program Effectiveness**

- In 2008-09 Counties reported serving 12,789 children.
- Approximately 8,194 children remained at home or were returned home.
- 822 children avoided foster care placement.
- Most frequently used service categories include but are not limited to mental health, alcohol and drugs treatment, aftercare/reunification services, educational and vocational supports.

